REMARKS/ARGUMENT

New claims 14-94 are presented for examination on the merits as defining subject matter in the present application that Applicant has a right to claim. No new matter is added. Entry and consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

New drawings are presented to show details of the invention previously described in the specification and the claims. No new matter is added. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the drawings in the application as formal drawings.
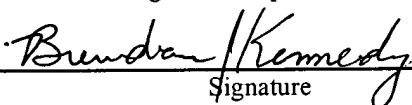
Entry of this amendment prior to consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 3, 2002
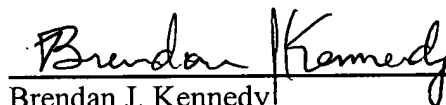
Respectfully submitted,

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Brendan J. Kennedy
Name of applicant, assignee or
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Signature

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April 3, 2002
Date of Signature

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SPECIFICATION:

Insert paragraph on page 6, after line 13:

In general, the present invention relates to a method and apparatus for combining media presentations in a customized format. By media presentation, all media types are contemplated, including the non-exclusive list of still images, video, audio, text and graphics. The characteristics of the media presentations can also vary, for example the video media can be animated, real life video, model or algorithmic generated video content. The sources of media content can vary widely as well, to include mass storage devices, machine generated media content, real-time media, linear and non-linear sources, and so forth. In each instance, the media presentation content can be abstracted to a media stream, in which media presentations are provided in some type of sequence. For example, a media presentation can be read from a magnetic storage medium by a processor, and the read information can be considered a media stream. It should be apparent that such a media stream need not be sequential or linear in nature, but can be manipulated as the media stream is read or processed.

CLAIMS (with indication of amended or new):

14.   (NEW) A system for providing a customized media stream, comprising:

a plurality of media presentation sources for providing media presentation streams;

first and second media streams from one or more of said media presentation sources for representing media presentations;

5   a media stream processor accessible to said first and second media streams and operable to derive reference information from said first and second media streams based on a selection criteria;

said reference information being usable to provide a combination of portions of said first and second media streams to form said customized media stream.

15.   (NEW) A system according to claim 14, wherein said media stream processor can operate on said first and second media stream portions with said reference information to provide said combination.

16.   (NEW) A system according to claim 14, wherein said selection criteria is related to at least one of a reference point, a scaling factor, a rotation axis and a rotation degree.

17.   (NEW) A system according to claim 14, wherein said selection criteria is related to at least one of a reference time point, a reference time length and a synchronization signal.

18.   (NEW) A system according to claim 14, wherein said combination includes an overlay of said first media stream portion on said second media stream portion to form said customized media stream.

19.   (NEW) A system according to claim 14, further comprising:
external control information; and
at least a portion of said selection criteria is derived from external control information.

20.   (NEW) A system according to claim 14, further comprising a transmission medium coupled to said media stream processor for transmitting at least one of said first and second media stream portions, said reference information and said combination.

21.   (NEW) A system according to claim 20, further comprising:
a user interface coupled to said transmission medium for receiving said at least one of said first and second media stream portions, said reference information and said combination; and
a display coupled to said user interface for displaying said combination.

22.   (NEW) A system according to claim 21, wherein:
said media stream processor can operate on said first and second media stream portions with said reference information to provide said combination; and

said media stream processor is operable to present said combination to said transmission medium for transmission to said user interface for display.

23.   (NEW) A system according to claim 21, wherein:

said user interface further comprises another media stream processor coupled to said transmission medium;

said another media stream processor being operable to receive said first and second media stream portions and said reference information; and

said another media stream processor can operate on said first and second media stream portions with said reference information to provide said combination for presentation to said display.

24.   (NEW) A system according to claim 14, wherein:

at least one of said media presentation sources is a media stream storage device accessible by said media stream processor; and

said media storage device is operable to store at least one of said first and second media stream portions, said reference information and said combination.

25.   (NEW) A system according to claim 23, wherein:

said user interface further comprises another media storage device coupled to said another media storage processor; and

said another media storage processor operable to store at least one of said first and second media portions, said reference information and said combination on said another media storage device.

26.   (NEW) A system according to claim 24, further comprising:

a media combination template for defining said combination of said first and second media stream portions; and

said template includes said reference information.

27.   (NEW) A system according to claim 19, wherein:

said external control information is substantially provided in realtime; and

said reference information is substantially derived in realtime to thereby permit said combination to be produced in substantially realtime.

28.   (NEW) A system according to claim 14, wherein:

at least one of said first and second media stream portions contains distinctive media features; and

said selection criteria can include parameters related to said distinctive media features, whereby said reference information can relate to said distinctive media features for use in said combination.

29.   (NEW) A system according to claim 14, further comprising:

modular portions of at least one of said first and second media stream portions; and
said selection criteria includes levels of customization related to said modular portions for deriving said reference information specific to each of said modular portions.

30.   (NEW) A system according to claim 28, wherein:

said media stream processor is operable to generate said parameters according to an algorithm applied to said media stream processor; and

said parameters contribute to identification of said distinctive features.

31.   (NEW) A system according to claim 14, wherein at least one of said first and second media stream portions contains at least one of audio, video, still image, text and graphic presentation information.

32.   (NEW) A system according to claim 14, wherein said selection criteria further comprises:

an algorithm executable by said media stream processor for analyzing at least one of said first and second media stream portions;

said at least one of said first and second media stream portions include dimensional information related to said media representations; and

an output of said algorithm comprising a portion of said reference information, and including data for synthesizing additional dimensional information.

33. (NEW) A system according to claim 32, wherein said additional dimensional information includes at least one of a rotation axis, a depth dimension, a motion dimension and a motion velocity dimension.

34. (NEW) A system according to claim 14, wherein at least one of said media presentation sources is a public media production facility.

35. (NEW) A system according to claim 28, wherein said selection criteria parameters include a normalization parameter for defining a normalized state of said distinctive media features.

36. (NEW) A system according to claim 26, wherein said template is provided by at least one of a user and an automatic algorithm.

37. (NEW) A system according to claim 36, wherein application of said template to said first and second media stream portions can substantially occur in realtime.

38. (NEW) A system according to claim 14, wherein said reference information includes at least one of a morphological combination, an interpolated combination and an extrapolated combination of said first and second media stream portions.

39. (NEW) A system according to claim 14, wherein at least one of said plurality of media presentation sources is an algorithm for generating said first media stream portion and is executable by said media stream processor.

40. (NEW) A system according to claim 39, wherein:
at least another of said plurality of media presentation sources is another algorithm for generating said second media stream portion and is executable by said media stream processor; and

said reference information includes algorithmic information for providing said combination.

41.   (NEW) A system according to claim 28, wherein said selection criteria is provided by a template including script information for animation of said distinctive media features.

42.   (NEW) A system according to claim 15, wherein said media stream processor is operable to fully provide said reference information prior to providing said combination.

43.   (NEW) A system according to claim 21, wherein said selection criteria is receivable from said user interface.

44.   (NEW) A system according to claim 21, wherein said user interface can provide instructions to said media stream processor for providing and sending at least one of said first and second media stream portions, said reference information and said combination.

45.   (NEW) A system for providing a collection of media streams, comprising:
a computer network including a plurality of interconnected computer systems;
a storage medium coupled to at least one of said computer systems for storing media streams;
an access controller on one or more of said computer systems for permitting access to said media streams on said storage medium;
a set of rules in said access controller for determining access permissions to said media streams; and
said media streams being selectable based on said access permissions for customized combination and delivery to a selectable set of said computer systems.

46.   (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 14, wherein at least one of said media presentation sources is a database.

47.   (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 46, wherein said database contains access rights information to selectively permit access to discrete contents of said database.

48.   (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 47, wherein said database further comprises an access tool for managing said access rights.

49.   (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 47, wherein said access rights can be designated public or private.

50.   (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 46, wherein said database contains rules for at least one of accounting and licensing of selective database content.

51.   (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 50, wherein:
said rules are operable to generate records based on database accesses; and
said records are storable at least one of remotely and locally.

52.   (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 50, wherein said rules provide a selection for a response based on at least one of lack of access to said discrete contents and a lack of payment for access to said discrete contents.

53.   (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 46, wherein said database further comprises an automated processing tool for automating changes to said database.

54.   (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 53, wherein said database changes include at least one of modification of access rights, modification of database contents and access of said database contents to provide at least one of said first and second media streams.

55.   (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 46, wherein said database can store said combination of portions of said first and second media streams.

56.   (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 47, wherein at least one of said first and second media streams is derived from said discrete contents of said database.

57. (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 46, wherein said database is distributed across several physical locations.

58. (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 46, further comprising a script, whereby discrete portions of said database can form at least one of said first and second media streams automatically according to said script.

59. (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 58, wherein said script contains a filter, whereby said discrete portions are automatically selected or deselected according to said filter.

60. (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 58, wherein said script includes synchronization information for forming said customized media stream.

61. (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 14, wherein said customized media stream includes programmed references including at least one of a hyperlink, and advertisement and a commercial presentation.

62. (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 14, wherein said customized media stream is formed as a slide show.

63. (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 62, wherein said slide show is at least one of non-sequential and interactive.

64. (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 14, wherein at least one of said first and second media streams contain map information.

65. (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 64, wherein:
said selection criteria includes variable related to said map information; and
said variables can be set to indicate conditions of modifiable characteristics of said map information.

66.   (NEW) A customized media according to claim 65, wherein said conditions include media presentation information for an individual.

67.   (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 46, wherein said database is structured to permit open dynamic sharing for access to a plurality of custom contents.

68.   (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 14, wherein at least one of said first and second media streams contains two separate custom media presentations.

69.   (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 14, wherein at least one of said first and second media streams contains an avatar for use with a custom media presentation from at least another of said first and second media streams.

70.   (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 68, wherein said two separate custom media presentations are additive to form a single custom media presentation.

71.   (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 39, wherein said selection criteria includes parameters for said algorithm.

72.   (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 71, wherein said parameters are modifiable during execution of said algorithm by said media stream processor.

73.   (NEW) A customized media stream according to claim 14, wherein said customized media stream is at least one of analog and digital.

74.   (NEW) A volitonal payment system comprising:
a multi user data set accessible by a network of interconnected numerical computational machines;
access rights information contained in said data set for selectively permitting access to a discrete
5   media content of said data set;

a set of rules for transferring a payment based on a use of said discrete media content; and

said access rights information being conditioned on said set of rules for transferring payment.

75. (NEW) A payment system according to claim 74, wherein:

said discrete media content is an object in said data set; and

said access rights are associated with said object.

76. (NEW) A payment system according to claim 74, wherein said discrete media content has an embedded indicia for tracking said discrete media content; and said set of rules is operable to track usage of said discrete media content based on said embedded indicia for transferring a payment.

77. (NEW) A payment system according to claim 74, further comprising:

a receipt generated by a usage of said discrete media content according to said access rights.

78. (NEW) A payment system according to claim 77, wherein said receipt is in the form of at least one of a message and a code.

79. (NEW) A payment system according to claim 78, wherein said code is an encrypted code provided from a public/private key code pair.

80. (NEW) A payment system according to claim 74, wherein said set of rules are operable to provide automated negotiation for license fees at a time of a transaction.

81. (NEW) A payment system according to claim 74, wherein a form of said discrete media content is available without full access permission.

82. (NEW) A media usage accounting system, comprising:

a data set of media presentation, at least some of said media presentations being custom made;

a set of rights associated with each of said media presentations;

a set of accounting rules for transferring a payment based on granted access according to said set

5   of rights; and

said set of rights permits combinations of said media presentations in said data set.

83.   (NEW) A customized frame order system comprising:

an order template for defining a frame order;

an electronic image having characteristics appropriate for a selectable frame;

a set of selectable frame options for framing said image;

5   a representation of a selected frame option with said image displayable on a user interface;

a set of instructions for manufacturing said image with said selected frame option; and

a device for manufacturing said image with said selected frame options according to said set of

instructions.

84.   (NEW) The frame order system according to claim 83, further comprising:

an accounting system having a set of costs associated with sold selectable frame options; and

a cost computed for said selected frame option and charged to an account associated with a frame

order.

85.   (NEW) A customized media presentation system, comprising:

a background media presentation;

a custom media presentation;

a first reference information associated with said background media presentation;

5   a second reference information associated with said custom media presentation;

a media processing engine operable to process said background and custom media presentations;

and

a combination of said background and custom media presentations produced by said media

processing engine, said combination being based on said first and second reference information.

86.   (NEW) A customized media presentation system according to claim 85, wherein said

custom media presentation includes audio information.

87.　(NEW)　A customized media presentation system according to claim 85, wherein said background media presentation includes synchronization signals for accommodating said combination.

88.　(NEW)　A customized media presentation system according to claim 86, wherein said audio information comprises a plurality of tonal qualities for representing different vocal intonations.

89.　(NEW)　A customized media presentation system according to claim 85, wherein said first reference information includes spacing information for forming said combination with said custom media presentation aligned according to said spacing information.

90.　(NEW)　A customized media presentation system according to claim 85, wherein said media processing engine is operable to transform said custom media presentation according to said first reference information whereby said transformed custom media presentation emulates a characteristic of said background media presentation.

91.　(NEW)　A method for providing a customized media stream, comprising:

providing a plurality of media presentation sources for providing media presentation streams;

obtaining a first and second media stream from one or more of said media presentation sources for representing media presentations;

5　　　　selecting criteria for combining portions of said first and second media streams;

deriving reference information from said first and second media streams based on said selected criteria; and

processing said first and second media streams to provide a combination of portions of said first and second media streams based on said reference information and said selected criteria.

92.　(NEW)　A method for providing to an entity accessing a database a customized media stream with rights clearances, comprising:

providing a database containing a plurality of media presentations, said media presentations being associated with a set of rights defining access permissions for each of said media presentations;

5　　　　permitting selection of a media presentation for use in a media combination;

determining a rights status of said selected media presentation based on said associated set of rights;

enunciating said rights status to said entity;

receiving an indicia of acknowledgement of said rights status; and

10   providing a transaction recordation based on said rights status for said selected media presentation and said indicia of acknowledgment.

93.   (NEW) A storage memory for storing a program code executable to provide a customized media presentation, said program code comprising:

a first code section executable to access a plurality of media presentation sources for providing media presentation streams;

5   a second code section executable to obtain a first and second media stream from one or more of said media presentation sources for representing media presentations;

a third code section executable to permit a selection of criteria for combining portions of said first and second media streams;

a fourth code section for deriving reference information from said first and second media streams

10   based on said selected criteria; and

a fifth code section for processing said first and second media streams to provide a combination of portions of said first and second media streams based on said reference information and said selected criteria.

94.   (NEW) A storage memory for storing a program code executable to customize an audio recording, comprising:

a first code section for receiving a voice sample of a person;

a second code section for analyzing the voice sample to determine a vocal characteristic of the

5   person or a semantic content of the voice sample to produce analysis data;

a third code section for applying the analysis data to a template defining a set of vocal characteristics or semantic content, such that both the vocal characteristics or the semantic content are defined by both the voice sample and template, to define a customized audio message; and

a fourth code section for outputting the customized message.